

NEWPORT POLICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Capt. Keith Lewis
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The Newport Police and Fire Departments responded to the Newport Elementary School located at 219 Chatham Street last night, Sunday 02/22/2015 at approximately 10:05 pm after a report was made that a bus was on fire in the parking lot.

A passerby was travelling on W. Railroad Boulevard, which is adjacent to the bus parking lot, when they noticed smoke and what appeared to be flames coming from the engine compartment area of one of the buses, and called 911.

Within moments Newport Police and Fire officials were on scene. A 2008 Thomas school bus was found with its front end and engine compartment area fully engulfed in flames. A second bus, a 1997 International 3000 Series, was also found with a smaller interior fire confined to the front end of the bus. Fire officials extinguished the fires on both buses, preventing any further damages to adjacent buses. School officials and Carteret County Fire Marshal, Eddie Lewis, were notified.

There was no further damage to other buses or the school itself, and there were no injuries involved with the incident. A third bus was found to have been tampered with but no damage was sustained. Newport Police are working with school officials, as well as the Fire Marshal's Office in the investigation of this incident, and have been in contact with the State Bureau of Investigation Arson Unit. There were some suspicious items found on the buses that lead officials to believe this was an act of arson; those items are not being disclosed at this time in the investigation. Investigators are reviewing evidence and attempting to locate witnesses to this incident. No suspects have been identified at this time. Further updates will be made as additional information becomes available.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to please call the Newport Police Department at 252-223-5111 or Carteret County Crime Stoppers at 252-726-INFO (4636).

Questions regarding the value of the buses damaged or questions directly regarding the school system should be directed to Tabbie Nance, Communications Director for the Carteret County School System. Mrs. Nance can be reached at 252-728-4583, ext. 1137 or tabbie.nance@carteretk12.org



